MOUNT DIABLO 1947 W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Volume LXXIV - Number 3 – March 2025

Friday March 21, 2025
7pm
License Testing 5:30pm

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Eileen Collins, KI5EDS
U.S. Air Force Colonel (retired) ; first woman space shuttle pilot and commander

THIS MONTH...

The History of the San Francisco Radio Club

Presented by Bruce Wolfe, N6BMW

One of the oldest radio clubs in the United States, the San Francisco Radio Club was started by high school sophomores in 1909, formally organized in 1916 and incorporated in 1919.

Our in-person meeting will also be held virtually, via the Zoom video system. The meeting access ID and password will be distributed via groups.io email announcement.

We have many accomplished and experienced club members. After all, we are an ARRL Special Service Club! The club is looking for amateur radio or communications topics that you or someone you know could present at a future club meeting.

An alternative might be several short presentations on different topics made by multiple persons.

Please direct your suggestions to info@mdarc.org.

Your contribution is vital for the continued success of MDARC. We are eager to hear from you!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FREE CLUB E-MAIL GROUP AT:

https://groups.io/g/MDARC

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Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730 info@mdarc.org

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
Vice President - Michael Papp, WB6GJE
Secretary – Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Treasurer - Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Emergency Coordinator - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

Directors At Large
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Mark Fehlig WA6NGC Mike Warren, W6MEW

Membership Chair – Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

PACIFICON 2024

Chair: Julie Mah, WJ8MAH
Registration: Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Treasurer: Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Secretary: Jeff Mah, N8MAH

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Annual Auction - **vacant**
Communications Trailer - Mike Warren, W6MEW
Communications Van MDARC-1 - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Digital Media - Grant Bowman, K6CBK
Education & Training - **vacant**
Field Day - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Good & Welfare - Diana Sage, KA6TZU
Holiday Dinner - Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Outreach - Dick Wade, WM6G
Programs - Michael Papp, WB6GJE
Public Service - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Radio Equipment Lending - Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Refreshments - Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Scholarship - Janice Fujii, KG6VTD
Technical Committee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Volunteer Classes - Dick Wade, WM6G
W6CX Repeater Trustee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
W6LGW Callsign Trustee - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

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Fred Coe, WB6ASU wb6asu@icloud.com

MDARC Family,

The Marin Ultra Challenge trail running event organized by Inside Trail Racing was held on March 8th . There were 450 runners on either the 50-mile or 50k-courses that cover the many trails in the Marin Headlands. As you can imagine, there can be a great need to provide radio real-time information to the event organizers. That is where we shine as we operate between multiple aid stations and net control.

Two MDARC members shared in this event working side-by-side with Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) operators: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB and myself, KK6QPE. LarryL had a long 10+ hour day operating initially at the Willow Camp Aid Station and then later at Net Control at Rodeo Beach, while LarryB operated for 8 hours at the Tennessee Valley Aid Station.

It is not uncommon for us and other MDARC members to serve on public service events in Marin County. Why do we do it? After all, it is a good one-hour roundtrip drive.

I think this statement on page 6-19 in the ARRL Technician License Manual (5th edition) hits the mark:
"Many hams are regularly involved with public service communications. It may be the reason you became interested in ham radio."

Although I cannot speak for KI6LNB, my guess is that his interest in public service is so he can hone is communication skills and be prepared in the event of an emergency. I know that this is part of the reason for me, but also because it is nice way to "get out and about" and see some beautiful areas.

Consider this paragraph in the same ARRL Technician License Manual about communications for public service in section 6.5.

"Thankfully, true emergencies and disasters are rare. Far more frequently, hams provide communications in support of public events such as parades or races. All of these are referred to as public service communications. Don't wait for an actual emergency or disaster to occur to participate in public service! It's a great exercise of your license privileges and provides excellent training to develop all kinds of communications skills." page 6-18

If you are not already participating in public service events, does any of this pique your interest? I really hope that it does because this type of participation is probably one of the best ways to get amateur radio "front and center" with the public as well as give you some important in-the-field experience.

Last month, I wrote about how our hobby is aging. Nothing new there, but we also know that with aging comes a decline in physical abilities. Don't let that stop you from participating in public service events. Most Comm Plan organizers are willing to accommodate you by selecting an appropriate location and shift for you to operate and contribute to the event.

Not sure if you have the necessary radio equipment? For most events, you only need an HT programmed with the appropriate operating frequencies.

(continued on following page)

Participating with MARS or any other amateur radio group has added advantages. Besides getting to know other amateur radio operators and sharing experiences, it is also a good way to learn how others operate in public service events. You should not be surprised that although each group follows standard practices, they also do things a bit differently and have different expectations. Things learned with other groups can be shared with MDARC to make for better public service events.

MDARC public service follows what I call the "radio only" method. By that I mean, all communication between aid stations/rest stops and Net Control is done by radio. This has worked well for many years, and I am not advocating that they change. However, some amateur radio clubs like MARS use more of a "radio and" method. Over the years they have tried to expand their communications toolkit by experimenting with other add-on communication methods. Here are some examples they have tried over the years:

Using Zoom at the aid stations to provide Net Control and event organizers a "look see" at each station.
Using MESH as an effective communication tool.
Using DMR in conjunction with conventional 2-meter operation.
Using APRS to know the whereabouts of radio operators serving as hikers/monitors, knowing the location of SAG vehicles for better deployment, and event Sweeps who follow behind the last runners.
Using Google Sheets to record those participants who have had to drop from an event.

Of course some of these modes require specialized equipment and added logistical infrastructure. At this time, it seems to me that the two ongoing modes utilized by MARS are APRS and Google Sheets. APRS has been found to be helpful, and Google Sheets looks to become a more promising tool. In fact, at the Marin Ultra Challenge event, I used Google Sheets to report runners who "dropped" at Tennessee Valley which gave timely information to Net Control and the event organizer.

My setup for Google Sheets was very minimal using an iPad, a WIFI hotspot, and an enclosure to protect the iPad and reduce glare from the sun. And I was not without my radio. In this case my go-box with a QYT KT-7900 radio with the QYT Quad Band antenna.

I hope you have been intrigued enough to come out to one of MDARC's public service opportunities. The MS Walk event in Walnut Creek is scheduled for March 30 and is a great event to get started. It is a local and fun event. Contact Larry Loomer, KI6LNB to sign up or for additional information.
laryloomer@yahoo.com

Check out other opportunities. Some are even on our namesake Mount Diablo. See pages 6 and 7.

73,
Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
03/10/25

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Membership Renewal (Jan 1- Dec 31)

Date: _____ Call (or SWL):_____ License Class: ☐ E ☐ A ☐ G ☐ T ☐ N

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____ City:_____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (___) _____ Cell Phone: (___) _____

Your E-mail: _____

Spouse or Partner's Name: _____ Spouse or Partner's Call (or SWL): _____

Spouse or Partner's Unique E-mail: _____

Circle any phone numbers or e-mail address above that you do NOT want listed in the club roster.
Please note, we take care to ensure that member information is never used for non-club or commercial purposes.

Note: You may add a maximum of 3 Family Members at the same address. Attach page with details for this.

Additional Information

- Membership Card: If you would like to have a new membership card mailed to you please send a SASE to the Membership Chair, Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 23222, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-0222
- Are you an ARRL member? This is important to maintain MDARC's Special Service Club status with ARRL.

☐ **ARRL Member** ☐ **ARRL Life Member**

Gift Membership

If you would like to give this membership as a gift to someone else, please fill in the above personal information with the recipient's information; and the below with your own information. In the instructions, please tell us when we may advise the recipient of his/her membership, and if you want this to be anonymous.

Gift-giver's Name: _____ Gift-giver's Callsign (if any) _____

Gift-giver's contact information (e-mail or phone no.): _____

Instructions: _____ ☐ Anonymous

Fees

MDARC DUES for Individual or Family membership at the same address: **This includes the electronic Carrier newsletter emailed monthly**	**$45.00**	$
Student membership: (Full-time student, 24yr old max **This includes the electronic Carrier newsletter emailed monthly**	**$15.00**	$
Carrier Newsletter: Optional *Paper* Copies & Mailing – Additional cost for paper copies and monthly mailing. It does NOT include the Directory – contact Membership.	**$18.00**	$
Repeater Support Donation – Help us keep your repeaters on the air with $5 to $50?		$
Total:		$

Please make your check payable to MDARC and mail to:

MDARC
PO BOX 23222
PLEASANT HILL, CA 94523-0222

Or Renew at below link:

https://www.mdarc.org/about-us/joinrenewupdate

MDARC Telephone: 925-288-1730
INFO@MDARC.ORG

Office Use Only

Date	ID#	$	Ck#	Intls

Rev 2020-12-15

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Oakland Marathon - Running Race **Confirmed**
Sunday, March 23, 2025
Running Race in Downtown Oakland
Radio Coordinator: Mike Pompa, KB6MP <mpompa@gmail.com>
https://www.ww6or.com/oakland-marathon-signup

Diablo Trails Challenge - Running Race **Confirmed**
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Running Race from Castle Rock Park, Walnut Creek
Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
Brazen Racing **https://brazenracing.com/diablotrailschallenge**

Cinderella Bike Ride - in Livermore **Confirmed**
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Ladies' Bike Ride around Livermore
Radio Coordinator: George Moorhead, KG6GEM <kg6wiu1@comcast.net>
https://www.valleyspokesmen.org

Primavera Ride - Rios Lovell Winery **Confirmed**
Sunday, April 13, 2025
Bike Ride in Livermore Valley
See: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
Tony Flusche **https://ffbc.org/primavera/**

MDARC has a Public Service walk in Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, on March 30, 2025, at 8:00 AM.

We will be stationed at Hydration Stations and at key locations along one of two walking routes. We will be looking for any problems with the walkers that are participating in the walk

We encourage you to volunteer for this very worthwhile public service event, benefitting the Multiple Sclerosis Society. MDARC has supported this event in past years. This walk is HT compatible, using the MDARC repeater, W6CX.

Stations that have already volunteered or this event are: KM6ORH, KD6NRD, KG6PHZ, K6ZA, KA6LER, K6TDG, KE6ZIW, K6REL, KK6QPE, WM6G and N6RIO.

We welcome additional hams that would like to participate in this worthwhile event.

Please put this event on your calendar and let me know that you are interested in participating at: laryloomer@yahoo.com .

Thank you and 73,

Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator

The Diablo Trails Challenge is coming up on Saturday, April 5, 2025.

It is a running race from Castle Rock Park in Walnut Creek to the top of Mt. Diablo, and back to the park.

MDARC has been asked to provide the situational awareness and emergency communication for the event due to the lack of reliable cellular telephone service on the mountain.

This event provides the opportunity for all hams of any experience to provide support from different assignments. All ham radio assignments are drive-up assignments on the mountain, unless you volunteer otherwise. Most assignments can be done with an HT using the MDARC repeater at the top of the mountain.

We encourage you to volunteer for this very worthwhile public service event, benefitting Save Mt. Diablo. MDARC has supported this event for many years.

Please put this event on your calendar and let me know if you are interested in participating.

I have received replies from the following operators:

K6SHO, AJ6LP, KM6ZJT, KO6DSF, KA6TIM, KJ6VZQ, N6BDW, K6TDG, AC6ZZ, KG6FPX, KM6SJO, KM6ZJT, N6RIO, KM6ORH, KD6NRD. KI6LNB, KG6PHZ, KK6QPE and K6WHY

Please let me add your call sign to the list. I hope to hear from you soon.

73,

Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator laryloomer@yahoo.com

Upgrade your amateur radio license.
Register now for MDARC 2025
Level 2: General license course.

Each Tuesday, March 25 - May 20, 2025 (9 sessions)
7:00-9:00 PM
Held via Zoom and In-Person at:
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church

1578 Kirker Pass Road
Clayton, Ca 94517

*** General Class Get-On-The-Air (GOTA)**
Saturday, June 28, 2025 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
In-Person Only

*This session will be In-Person only, at MDARC Summer Field Day located at Olympic High School in Concord. This Get On The Air (GOTA) class will provide practical information to make it easier to use what you learned in the license course in real applications. In this session, you will practice actually getting on the air. (We can provide the radios.)

Please go to https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details for course details and to complete the required register for the license course.

SATURDAY, May 3, 2025 - BENICIA, CA

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE CLASS

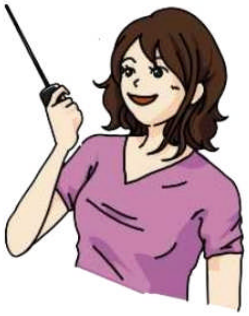
Average 90% Pass Rate

Study Session followed by Exam

When: **Saturday, May 3, 2025**
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Test only: 1:00 PM $14

Where: **Benicia Senior Center**
1201 East 2nd Street, Benicia

What: **Technician Class (beginner's level)**
General Class Upgrade ***(for licensed Techs)***



Fees: **$35.00** ***includes exam fee*** **- FCC $35 Fee** ***(not included)***

Register: **beniciaarc.com/hamclass**

Questions: **HamRadioClass@BeniciaARC.com**
or 707-742-3227 Voicemail or Text

Class size is limited and fills quickly
Register and Pre-pay online for a guaranteed seat
No prep or prior study required

Reserve Your Space - Become a Ham in One Day!

Prospective Hams: Plan on attending local Get-On-The-Air Classes (TBA) after passing their test to become familiar with Amateur Radio operations

Can't make the upcoming class?

Capture the QR code for future sessions

Extra Class Testing ONLY
Only pay the test fee of $14.
Study materials for Element 4 not provided.

W5YI

EXAM TOOLS by SignalStuff

Character illustration courtesy ICOM USA

MDARC CAMPOUT June 6, 7, 8, 2025

Located at the Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area in the Forbes Creek section at the Rocky Ridge group site. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Placer County. This will be a joint venture between our club and a another group of radio amateurs who have meeting for this annual event for over 50 years. We are limited to 50 people at this site so get your reservations in early.

At approximately 3,000 feet above sea level, the campground has water and restroom facilities, no hookups, but nice spaces for trailers, tents and motor homes. There are three large barbecue pits available at our site as well as a large recessed pit for a grand campfire. There are plenty of trees as well as open space for stringing a G5RV and a double extended Zepp for your HF station if it is your desire to bring one.

Call-in will be on the Mount Diablo W6CX (147.06 +600 100hz PL) repeater.

Friday

Between 12 noon and 1 PM, the forest ranger will arrive to unlock the gate for access to our site. The gate will remain open through out our stay. Also during this time and throughout the afternoon and the early evening the 145.43 repeater (PL 162.2hz), as well as the 146.745 -600 W6SAR Foresthill PL 156.7 will be monitored. If you are a a distance away from the campsite, the Mt. Diablo W6CX repeater will be available. When you arrive, park at any of the available spaces. There are plenty.

That evening, you are on your own for dinner. Use your Weber or the barbecue pits provided at the site.

A campfire and star party with telescopes will take place after dark.

Saturday

In the morning, you are on your own for breakfast after which, if you desire, join us for a hike to and around the lake. Weather pending, the view will be picture postcard as we make our way around. We will pass the swimming area and cross the dam as we make our way back to Rocky Ridge. The hike should take approximately 2 hours.

After arriving back at the campsite, you are on your own for lunch if you desire but most of us would probably settle for a tall cold one. Later on you can scrounge around for wood for the campfire that night. Around 4:30 the full socializing begins and the bar is open. Bring out the appetizers and munches which is part of the pot luck. Also during this time, the host supplied charcoal will be prepared and the barbecue pits will be lit. However, before dinner as an idea conceived by Fred Townsend AE6QL, we will have a champagne cork popping contest. To participate in this event, bring your own champagne ...***AND NO BOTTLES WITH SCREW-ON CAPS… CORK ONLY.***

As for dinner that follows, the hot coals will be provided for cooking your choice of meat. Please bring out a side dish, salad, rolls for dinner and dessert to share.

After dinner, the camp fire will be started so bring your own marshmallows. The sticks will be provided by the campsite. Enjoy the fire as we sing, chat, or whatever you would like to do at this time. Plus we will have a real space odyssey star party with a few astronomical telescopes set up.

(continued on following page)

Sunday

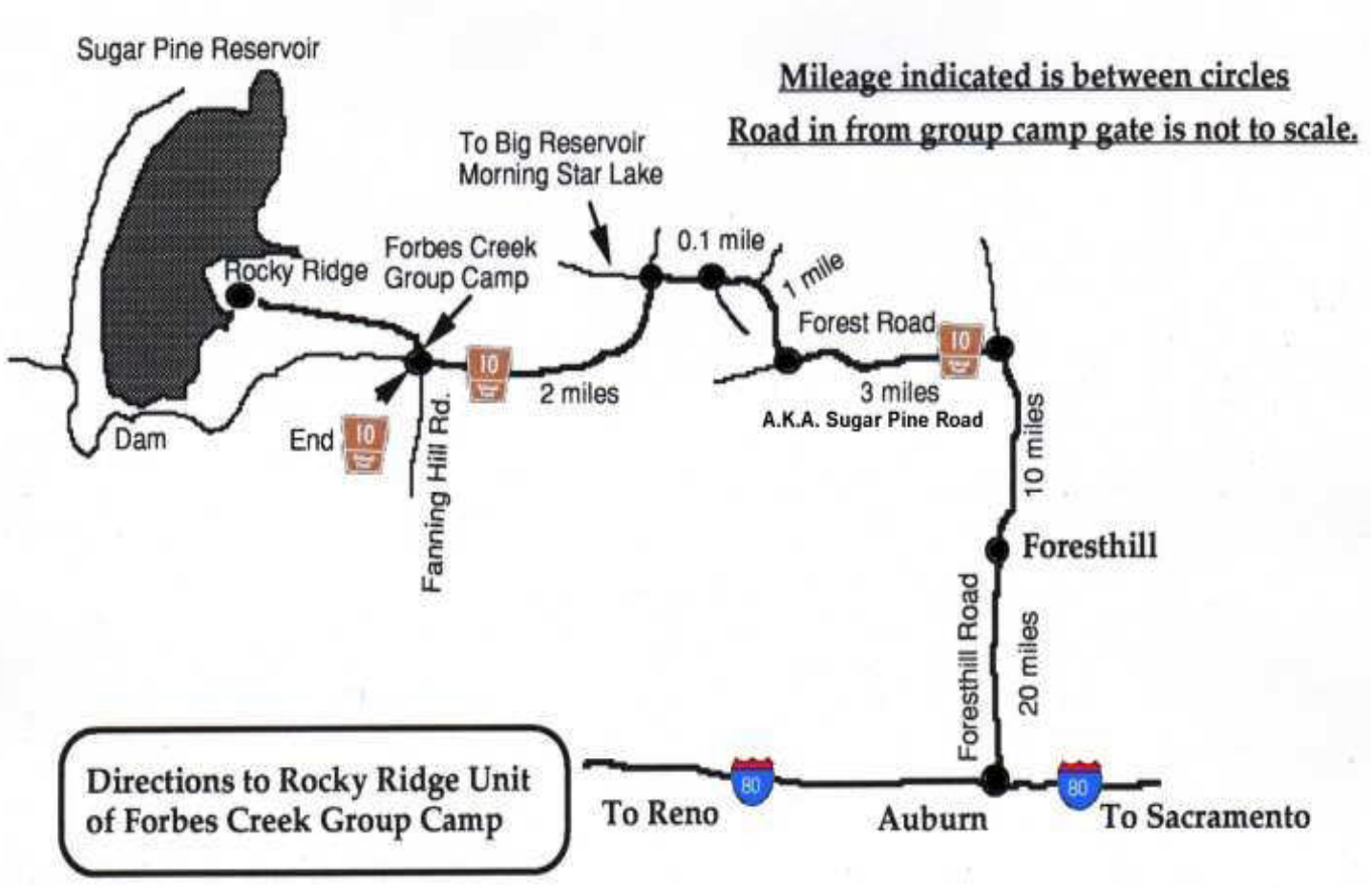
At approximately 8 am, preparation will be underway for the host provided barbecued pancakes. Supply your own beverages and sides and share if you like.

Looks Great...Now How Do We Get There??

From San Francisco, drive east on Interstate 80 through Auburn and exit at Foresthill. Head east on Foresthill Road crossing the mile long panoramic American River Bridge. Continue heading east for about 20 miles and you will reach the town of Foresthill. After passing through town continue east for another 10 miles and turn left at Sugar Pine Dam Road. There should be sign just before you reach the junction. Once you are on Sugar Pine Dam Road (Route 10), follow the road carefully, there are a few turnoffs that can possibly throw you off course. **If you have any questions while on Foresthill or Sugar Pine Dam road, you should be in simplex range. Monitor 146.49. The 145.43 (PL 162.2) Auburn repeater should also be available and it will be the primary talk-in to get you to the site.** In any case, stay on the blacktop. Eventually you approach a junction with the main road going slightly to the left and a road going slightly to the right with a gate which should be open for us. This is also the junction where route 10 ends as indicated by a sign even though the road continues. As you go past the gate, there is a sign posted there marking the reserved group campsites. Follow the signs for the Rocky Ridge site which will be reserved for us. The total drive time from San Francisco to the campground should be approximately 3 hours if you avoid the Bay Area and Sacramento rush hours.

In the late morning, it's cleanup time and we say our good-byes until next year.

RSVP. to Julie Mah, WJ8MAH juliemah4@yahoo.com



MDARC General Meeting Minutes January 17, 2025

Held as hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by MDARC president Larry Bradley KK6QPE.
a. Welcome to all: Larry KK6QPE welcomed all attendees.
b. Pledge of Allegiance: This was made by attendees.
c. Safety, Exits, Rest Rooms: Larry KK6QPE indicated the positions of the emergency exits and restrooms.
d. Acknowledge new members: New members were acknowledged.
e. Acknowledge visitors: Paul Fry KD6NRD joined the meeting on Zoom and stated that he wants to become active in amateur radio again. He is planning to join a club and get involved in volunteer opportunities at the club.

2. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting: The minutes of the November meeting were approved without objection.
3. Officer Reports:
a. President: Larry Bradley KK6QPE had no report. b. Vice President: Michael Papp WB6GJE was absent.
c. Secretary: Brian KM6NGS had no report.
d. Treasurer: Barbara Whysong K6WHY presented the following report.

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2024

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Equipment Self-Ins Fun	64,977.97
MDARC Savings	28,441.19
MDARC Checking	58,001.91
PACIFICON	0.00
Total Checking & Savings	151,421.07
Total Current Assets	151,421.07
TOTAL ASSETS	**151,421.07**
LIABILITIES	**0.00**
NET ASSETS	**151,421.07**
Increase/Decrease from prev month	-168.55

Monthly Report - DEC 2024

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	MDARC	Pacificon	TOTAL
Credits			
Membership	$3,091.46		$3,091.46
Education	$40.14		$40.14
Other	$468.57		$468.57
Repeater Donations	$400.00		$400.00
Donations	$185.00		$185.00
Pacificon			$0.00
Holiday Party			$0.00
			$0.00
Total Credits	$4,185.17	$0.00	$4,185.17
Debits			
Operations	$1,241.00	$83.80	$1,324.80
Holiday Banquet	$2,834.23		$2,834.23
Awards	$194.69		$194.69
Total Debits	$4,269.92		$4,353.72
Change in Net Assets			**-$168.55**

e. Emergency Coordinator: Larry KI6LNB had no report.

4. Directors at Large.
Directors at Large: Mike W6MEW was absent, Mark Fehlig WA6NGC announced that he had promoted the idea of getting a gift certificate from Ham Radio Outlet (HRO), for each General Meeting, because this is what he got from HRO in Atlanta. HRO is not willing to do that here so he has abandoned the idea since he does not want MDARC to spend money on this, Cal K6VT and Trevor WA6JAU had nothing to report.

5. Committee Reports – Standing:
a. Auction: Report not scheduled or unavailable. b. Outreach Coordinator: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
c. Technical: Larry Trevor WA6JAU reported that the 220 MHz repeater had not been sending out a time signal and that he had repaired that. He also reminded us that, if you want to check into a net via the W6CX Radio node, please use the Echo Link conference bridge which can handle 30 people. The R node can only handle 10 people and if more than 10 try to use the R node, it disables the conference bridge.
d. Digital Media: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
e. Education and Training: Report not scheduled or unavailable.

(continued on following page)

f. Pacificon: Julie Mah reported that they are looking for a co-chair for registration and that anybody who would like to volunteer, should contact her.
g. Membership: Jan KM6NFC, reported that there are 308 paying members and a total of 373 including family members. The total club membership is 390 when 12 honorary members are included. So far, 129 members have renewed for 2025 and 179 haven't renewed yet. He added that anybody who was a member in 2024 and who does not renew before the end of January 2025 will only be listed as a member until the end of January 2025. Jan explained that anybody wishing to join, or renew membership, should go to the MDARC website and click on the membership tab which will take them to a link to do that. In response to a question about membership cards, he explained that printing and sending out membership cards is quite labor intensive but offered to send out cards by email.
h. Public Service: Larry KK6QPE stated that the public service opportunities are listed on the MDARC website.
i. Vehicle Committee MDARC-1: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
j. License Testing: Larry KK6QPE reported that one person had earned their General Class license tonight.
k. Trailer Committee: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
l. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that Field Day will be held at the Olympic High School in Concord again this year and that approval had been received from the district office. The approval papers are now at the office of the principal for his or her approval.
m. Holiday Banquet: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
n. Election Committee: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
o. Program Committee: Ed KJ6KYT was not present.

6. Unfinished Business: None **7. New Business:** None.

8. Good of the order:
Lauren Styles WA6CIE reported that George Roush, WB6OFH had become a silent key. Director Trevor Hall WA6JAU presented a Ham of the Year plaque to Julie Mah and a Kilroy Key plaque to Grant Bowman.

9. Adjourn Business meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Secretary, on February 16, 2025

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting February 3, 2025

Held at Zoom online

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Larry Bradley, KK6QPE after it was determined that there was a quorum for conducting Club business.

2. Roll Call: Attendees via Zoom screen shots: **Officers:** Larry Bradley KK6QPE, President; Mike Papp WB6GJE, Vice President; Brian Lotter KM6NGS, Secretary; Barbara Whysong, K6WHY, Treasurer; Larry Loomer KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator; Mike Warren W6MEW, Director at Large; Mark Fehlig WA6NGC, Director at Large; Cal Vasquez K6VT, Director at Large; Trevor WA6JAU, Director at Large. **Committee Chairs/Coordinator:** Grant Bowman K6CBK Digital Media; Jan Kulisek KM6NFC Membership Coordinator; Jim Tittle K6SOE Rocky Ridge Repeater. **Guests:** Debbie KM6IXM; Charles K3CMK; Benjo Sevilla KA6BJS; Phil Cazella N4CAZ; Trevor Raty KG6MDW.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Barbara K6WHY seconded by Mike W6MEW, proposed a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes of the January Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Adopt Tonight's Agenda: Mike W6MEW seconded by Mike WB6GJE, proposed a motion to adopt tonight's agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Officer reports:

a. President Larry Bradley KK6QPE – Stated that he and Lauren Styles had had a discussion about a potential conflict with the date of our General meeting in April since it falls on Good Friday. It turns out that the church will not be using our usual meeting room so there is no conflict. There was also a discussion about whether we will cancel our General Meeting due to Field Day this year. Field Day will be held on June 28th and 29th. Our General Meeting is on June 20th, which is the week before Field Day this year, so we will hold our normal General Meeting on June 20th. Our October General Meeting would normally be held on October 17th is year, but since we usually hold it at PACIFICON, and since PACIFICON will be held October 11th and 12th this year, we will move the date of the October General Meeting to coincide with PACIFICON. Larry also announced that he will be visiting his father for his 104th birthday on February 11th and will be in Oregon for about a week. He will be available by email and phone however.

b. Vice-President Mike Papp WB6GJE – Had no report c. Secretary Brian Lotter KM6NGS – Had no report.

d. Treasurer Barbara Whysong K6WHY – Barbara presented the following report:

Balance Sheet
February 28, 2025

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Equipment Self-Ins Fun	65,441.98
MDARC Savings	28,444.87
MDARC Checking	56,614.42
Total Checking & Savings	150,501.27
Total Current Assets	150,501.27
TOTAL ASSETS	**150,501.27**
LIABILITIES	**0.00**
NET ASSETS	**150,501.27**
Increase/Decrease from prev month	-1,032.61

CREDIT FEES YTD 2025

	GROSS	FEES	NET
MDARC	3,070.00	(173.44)	2,896.56
PACIFICON	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	**3,070.00**	**(173.44)**	**2,896.56**

INCOME/EXPENSE YTD 2025

	CREDIT	DEBIT	NET
MDARC	3,878.58	(3,217.00)	661.58
PACIFICON	0.00	(1,581.38)	(1,581.38)
TOTAL	**3,878.58**	**(4,798.38)**	**(919.80)**

Monthly Report -

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	MDARC	Pacificon	TOTAL
Credits			
Membership	$890.52		
Education	$13.40		
Other	$6.13		
Repeater Donations	$85.00		
Donations	$15.00		
ESIF Dividend	220.64		
Total Credits	$1,230.69	$0.00	$1,230.69
Debits			
Operations	$2,070.00	$88.30	$2,158.30
Test Fees	$105.00		$105.00
Total Debits	$2,175.00	$88.30	$2,263.30
Change in Net Assets			**-$1,032.61**

MDARC INCOME	PACIFICON INCOME	MDARC Expense	Pacificon Expenses
Membership		EIP monthly fee*	Google Workspace
Donations		Unwired monthly fee	Constant Contact*
Education		Rodie's	
Interest/Dividends		ARRL/VEC test fees	
		ARRL Liability Ins	
		LaRue payment	

*EIP monthly fee increased from $500 to $515/month
*Constant Contact increased from $55.00 - $59.50/month

(continued on following page)

Emergency Coordinator Report: Larry KI6LNB had no report.

7. Directors at large reports:
Mike Warren W6MEW – Had no director's report.
Trevor Hall WA6JAU – Had no director's report.
Mark Fehlig WA6NGC – Had no director's report.
Cal Vasquez K6VT – Had no director's report.

8. Committee Reports:
a. Auction: Vacant. No report was expected.
b. Communications Trailer: No report was expected.
c. Digital Media: Grant K6CBK had nothing to report.
f. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE stated that the January Technician course is past half way.
g. Election Committee: No report was expected.
h. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that the school district has approved our use of the parking lot at Olympic High School for Field Day, our application is awaiting approval by the Vice Principal of the school. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of moving Field Day to DVC. After some discussion, Larry KK6QPE asked Larry KI6LNB to collaborate with Lauren WA6CIE and report back to the next Board Meeting.
i. Holiday Banquet: No report was expected.
k. Membership: Jan KM6NFC showed his membership report which had the following numbers, Paying Members 144, All current members including family and additional members 175, New members this year 2, Renewals last 30 days 35, Past due (excluding family members) 167, Lifetime + Honorary members 12. Benjo asked Jan how to ensure that email addresses for members are stated correctly in the membership directory. It was determined that the main method is for individual members to correct their own contact information on the Membership Portal. For those who do not have an Internet connection or cannot navigate the Membership Portal, it will be necessary to use mail or telephone to contact them.
l. Mesh Committee: Mike W6MEW had nothing to report. m. Outreach: No report was expected.
n. PACIFICON: No report was expected. o. Programs: There was no report.
p. Public Service: Larry KI6LNB reported that there is a coming event in Livermore.
q. Radio Lending Library: Cal K6VT had nothing to report.
r. Rocky Ridge Repeater (Tech): Jim K6SOE stated that a new power supply has been installed for the multi-mode repeater. The software on the router on the hill has been updated and it has been put on automatic software updates for the future.
s. Scholarship: No report was expected.

9. Future Meetings:
General Meeting: 02/21/2025 will be a hybrid, in-person and online.
Board Meeting 03/03/2025 on Zoom only.

10. Unfinished Business:
10.1 MDARC 2025 budget: After finalizing the numbers, Larry KK6QPE called for a motion to approve the 2025 budget. Cal K6VT seconded by Mike W6MEW, proposed a motion to approve the 2025 budget. The motion was approved unanimously.
10.2 Status report on revising Membership database for processing and tracking payments, new payment gateway status: Jan KM6NFC showed the membership renewal section of the MDARC website and stated that it is now working properly. Barbara K6WHY stated that it is working for her too and proposed a motion, seconded by Brian KM6NGS, to switch membership renewal from Constant Contact, as the primary, to Jan's Gateway. Jan also stated that new memberships will still be processed via Constant Contact.
10.3 Asset List: This is deferred to later this year.

(continued on following page)

Title	Name: Call Sign	Bank Account Signatory
President	Larry Bradley, KK6QPE	Yes
Vice President	Michael Papp WB6GJE	No
Secretary	Brian Lotter, KM6NGS	Yes
Treasurer	Barbara Whysong, K6WHY	Yes
Emergency Coordinator	Larry Loomer, KI6LNB	No
Director at Large	Cal Vasquez, K6VT	No
Director at Large	Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC	No
Director at Large	Mike Warren, W6MEW	No
Director at Large	Trevor Hall, WA6JAU	No

10.4 $3,500 anonymous donation to MDARC: Larry KK6QPE said that this is on the agenda to remind us to think of what the funds should be used for: Larry LI6LNB noted that the candidates are very happy when they learn that MDARC is covering their testing fees and suggested that we continue to do so. Barb stated that we have about $625 of the original $1000 allocation left. Larry KK6QPE said that we will reconsider this when we have spent all of the original $1000 allocation, if the money has not been allocated to other things by then. Larry KK6QPE asked for other ideas on how to utilize this money.

11. New Business:

11.1 To meet the bank's requirement for removing Ed Morales, KJ6KYT as a signatory for banking documents/ business, we need to have a list of 2025 Board Members listed in the February Board Meeting Minutes: **The above table lists the Board Members for 2025.** The name of Ed Morales KJ6KYT needs to be removed from the list of signatories at the bank.

11.2 Consider providing MDARC club name tags for new members, existing members, etc.: Various options were discussed and the Board decided that the idea has merit so it was decided that it will be revisited in the future.

11.3 Provide "Net time" for The American Legion Department of CA Post 237: The Board was open to adding another Net to the repeater roster and also decided that MDARC membership is not a requirement, although a donation would be appreciated, but not required. Mike W6MEW, seconded by Trevor WA6JAU, proposed a motion to approve the use of the repeater for the Veteran Net starting at 6pm on Wednesdays, for a duration of 30 minutes. The motion was carried unanimously. Phil Cazella N4CAZ, the commander of Post 237, thanked the Board, on behalf of The American Legion, for their approval.

11.4 Publicize donations/donors made to MDARC on MDARC.org: Barbara K6WHY proposed this to recognize those who donate to MDARC. Barbara proposed a motion, seconded by Mike W6MEW, to add a page to the MDARC website to publish the names of donors and create ranges to add their names to and give them the option to remain anonymous if they so desire. This would be done by year. The motion was approved unanimously.

11.5 Should we cancel FastFund: Barbara K6WHY reported that FastFund has not turned out to how we thought it would. It is designed for much larger organizations than MDARC, the support is not good and it is much more work than just using spreadsheets like she did last year. She proposed cancelling FastFund and continuing with spreadsheets until she can find a program that meets our needs. Trevor WA6JAU seconded by Cal K6VT, proposed a motion to cancel FastFund. The motion was approved unanimously.

11.6 Should we subscribe to ElectionBuddy to administer MDARC's annual election of officers: Benjo KA6BJS reported that he had had problems with using Constant Contact for our last election. After some research had found ElectionBuddy and run a test with Larry Bradley, John Rio, & Grant Bowman for a mock election. After some discussion, Mike WB6GJE seconded by Mike W6MEW, proposed a motion to adopt Election Buddy for our elections. The motion was approved unanimously.

11.7 Should the Board consider sharing in the purchase of 15 tablets to facilitate License Testing as a shared resource between BARK, MDARC, and Martinez ARC: After much discussion of the merits of paper testing versus electronic testing, it was understood that we will eventually have to move to electronic testing, but that in the meantime, both paper testing and electronic testing will be used. Cal K6VT, seconded by Mike W6MEW, proposed a motion to allocate a budget amount of $500 for the purchase of 5 tablets, cases and screen protectors, which will be used for license testing. The motion was approved unanimously.

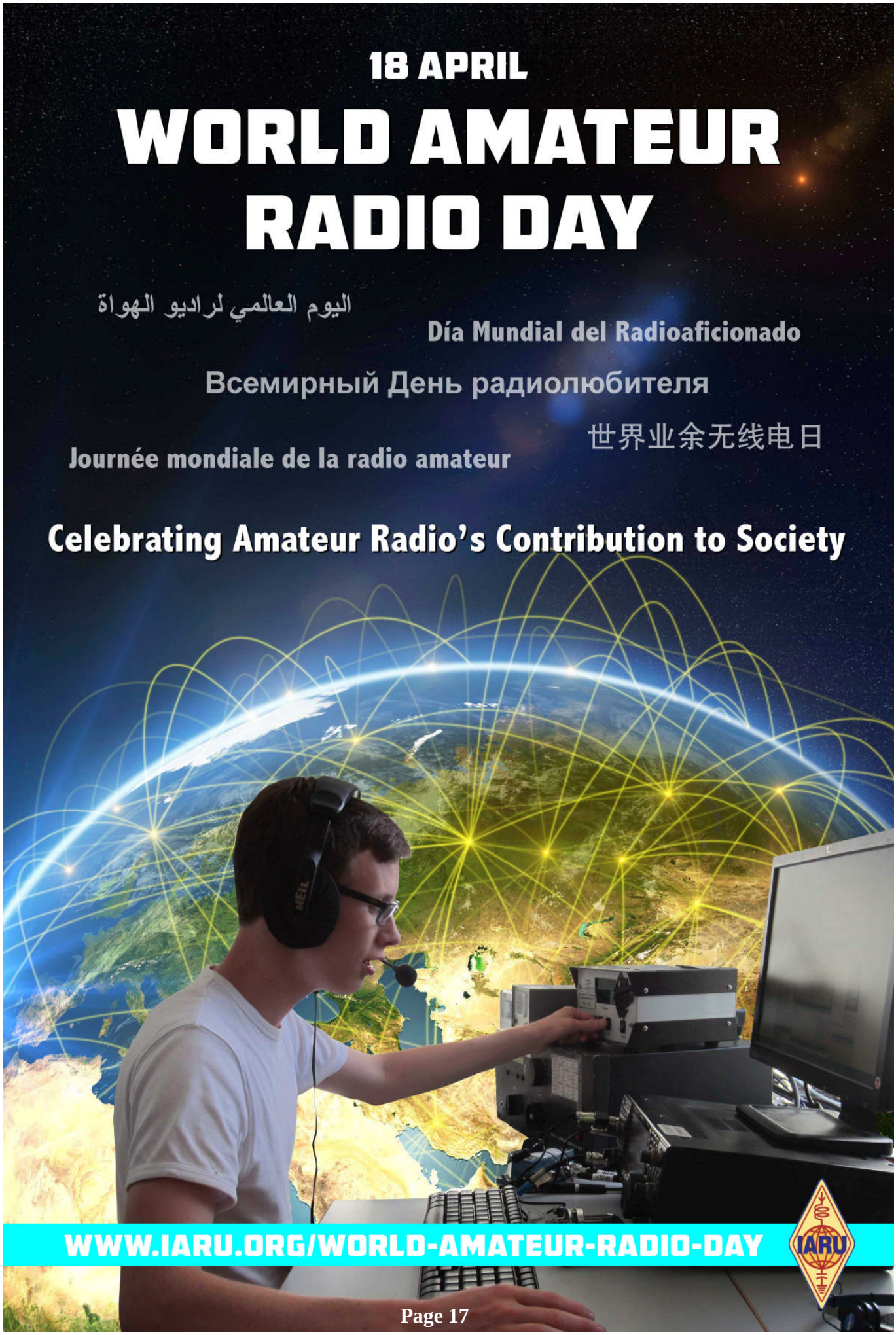
12. Good of the order: Nothing was heard.

13. Adjournment:

Mike W6MEW, seconded by Barbara K6WHY, proposed a motion to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Lotter KM6NGS, Secretary, February 24, 2025.

These meeting minutes were signed digitally due to the digital meeting.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Всемирный День радиолюбителя
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560 KHz on the Bay Area Radio Dial Goes Silent

On March 4, 2025, AM radio station KZAC, on 560 kHz, was shut down by owner Cumulus Media, Incorporated. The station was first licensed in 1925 and held the call letters KSFO from May 2, 1935 to December 31, 2024. Once known as “The Sound of the City” until the format changed to news/talk in 1993, the KSFO call letters are now broadcast on 810 kHz, a frequency previously licensed with the call letters KGO from January 8, 1924 until December 31, 2024. A timeline of this shutdown follows.

November 1929 – KTAB, first licensed in San Francisco on August 1, 1925, changes frequency to 560 kHz

May 2, 1935 – KTAB changes its call letters to KSFO

1937 – KSFO begins transmitting with 5,000 watts from a tower site along Islais Creek on land leased from the Port of San Francisco, where it remains today

March 10, 2011 – Cumulus Media purchases the bankrupt Citadel Broadcasting Company, KSFO’s owner since 2007

November 18, 2024 – KSFO 560 kHz programming is simulcast on KGO 810 kHz for the next 86 days

January 1, 2025 – The KZAC call letters are assigned to 560 kHz and the KSFO call letters are assigned to 810 kHz; the KGO call letters were then retired

February 12, 2025 – KZAC begins airing a two minute, pre-recorded message that directs listeners to tune to KSFO at 810 kHz

March 4, 2025 – KZAC’s transmitter on 560 kHz is turned off and its owner files a Special Temporary Authority (STA) with the FCC to remain off the air for a maximum of one year; the nearest stations on 560 kHz are KBLU (Yuma, Arizona), KPQ (Wenatchee, Washington) and KLZ, (Denver, Colorado); all broadcast at 5,000 watts, the same power output KZAC utilized

A history of KSFO is on the Bay Area Radio Museum web site: https://bayarearadio.org/history/ksfo

ESTATE SALE

Astron VS-35M 2 to 15 volts 35 amp power supply $160

Astron RS-35M 35 amp power supply $180

Kenwood IF-232C computer interface $20

Kenwood TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver $800

Kenwood SP-23 external speaker for TS-450 $100

Yaesu G-800DXA rotator controller only (no rotator) $80

Diamond MX-72H HF-VHF/UHF Duplexer $30

Vibroplex Keyer $90

McElroy semi-automatic telegraph key $150

Reasonable offers for any of the above considered. Contact:
Kim Leong, N6YJ, 925-575-1941 or n6yj.qth@gmail.com

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Please contact Will Roberts at ka3vdt@gmail.com or visit http://laser66.com/ham/

To purchase a DATV transmitter, contact Fred Coe, WB6ASU, at wb6asu@icloud.com

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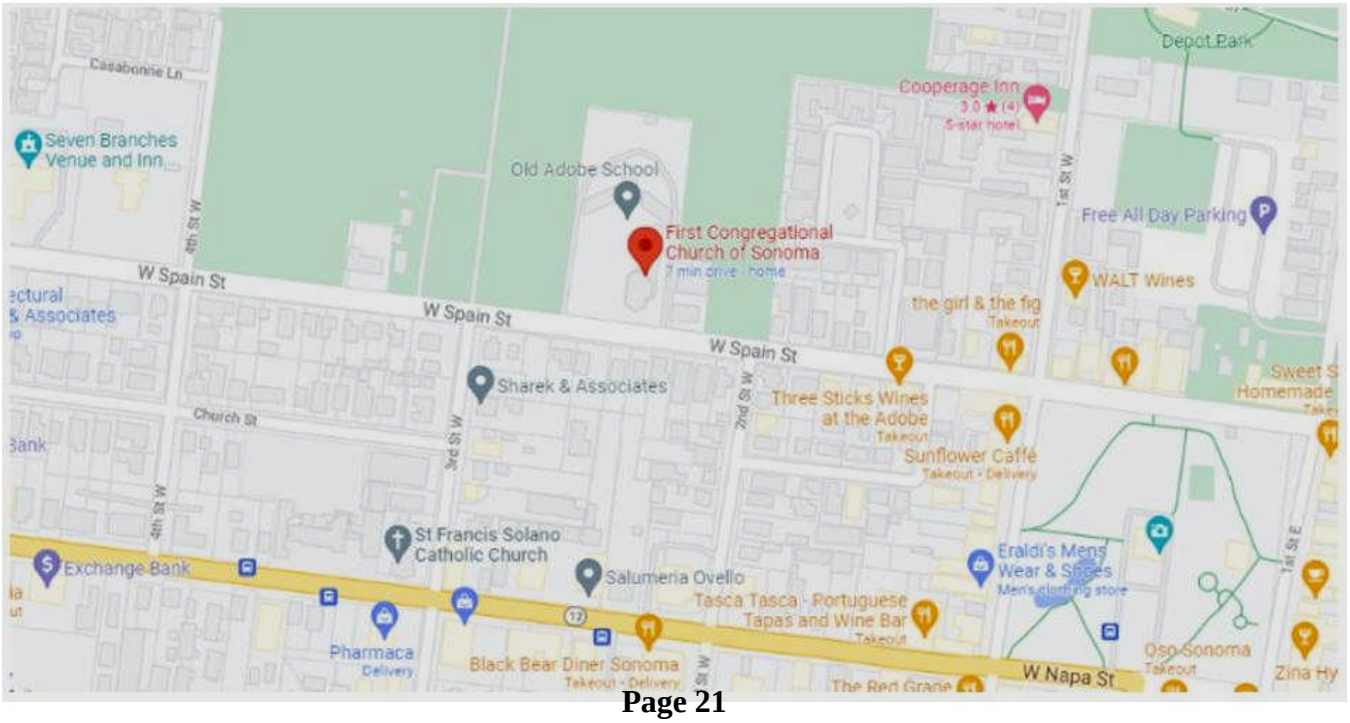
http://www.vomarc.org



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FT-70DR *C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr*

• System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging

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• High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth® Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot

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W6CX Nets

M-F 5:42 am Morning Muster 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

M-F 6:10am Commuter Net 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

Tuesday 8:00pm Digital Practice Net 147.060+ 224.78- 441.325+

Wednesday 6:00pm American Legion Veteran's Net 147.060+

Wednesday 7:00 pm SKYWARN Net 147.060+

Wednesday 8:00pm Delta Amateur Radio Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Digital Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets
Every Thursday

6:30 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 147.480 Simplex
7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.2 PL)
or 147.735-- (107.2 PL)
or 145.410-- (107.2 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)
Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

Club Voice Repeaters
147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz
EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
DMR Repeater 144.925 offset plus 2.5 MHz color code 1
D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz
https://w6cx.dstargateway.org/

Digital Amateur Television Repeater

Digital ATV Output: 1244.500
Digital ATV Inputs: 1292.500, 1273.0, 917.0, 430.0
Analog ATV Input: 1270.000 FM (PL 192.8)

DATV Internet Stream: **http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org**
YouTube Channel: Media MDARC

March and April 2025 Club Calendar

Friday March 21, 2025	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Saturday April 5, 2025	8:00am	MDARC Technical Committee Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Monday April 7, 2025	6:30pm	MDARC Board of Directors Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Friday April 18, 2025	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette